

## B.C.-MT 2020 Work Plan

The B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) commit to jointly developing and implementing annual work plans starting in 2019-2020, in order to identify:

- Shared annual priorities for the transboundary region;
- Key steps needed to deliver on shared priorities for the year in question;
- Capacity commitments; and
- Areas to be explored in subsequent annual work plans.

### Working with First Nations and U.S. Tribes

- In support of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ENV will work with the Ktunaxa Nation Council at government-to-government and technical levels in order to secure their consent as Action Items of Annual Work Plans are implemented.
- DEQ will engage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho throughout the development of a site specific selenium criteria for Lake Koocanusa.

### 2019-2020 Shared B.C.-MT Priorities

- Continued management and support of the Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Working Group (LKMRWG) and its committees and task groups as they work to undertake monitoring and develop recommendations for a new selenium water quality criteria/objectives number, to be delivered to ENV and DEQ for consideration in 2020.
- Approving aligned water quality criteria/objectives for selenium for Lake Koocanusa in 2020 (one lake-one number).
- Initiating discussions for the 2021 BC-MT Annual Work Plan in December 2020.

### 2019-2020 Key Steps to Deliver on Priorities

Action Items	Timing	Status
Annual face to face meeting of the LKMRWG	Nov. 2019	Complete
ENV begins co-development of B.C.'s water quality objectives document for selenium for Lake Koocanusa with the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC)	Fall 2019	Pending
Quarterly report to BC and DEQ Executive	Dec. 2019	Complete
ENV/ DEQ work with Selenium Technical Sub-Committee (SeTSC) members and the United States Geological Service (USGS) to finalize alternative levels of protection for mechanistic ecosystem modeling	Jan. 2020	Pending
Quarterly report to BC and DEQ Executive	April 2020	Pending
USGS conducts mechanistic ecosystem modeling and delivers results to the SeTSC	May 2020	In Progress

SeTSC reviews model results and provides input to BC and DEQ co-chairs for risk assessment of model alternatives regarding an updated selenium number for Lake Koocanusa	June 2020	Pending
2020 face to face meeting of the LKMRWG; modeling results are shared with the Monitoring and Research Committee (MRC)	June 2020	Pending
ENV and DEQ co-chairs of the SeTSC finalize technical assessment report and recommendations (risk assessment of model alternatives)	July 2020	Pending
ENV engages the KNC to discuss the technical assessment report and recommendations, seeking consensus on appropriate levels for selenium in Lake Koocanusa that are protective of the known values of the water body	July 2020	Pending
DEQ engages EPA and US Tribes to discuss the technical assessment report and recommendations, seeking consensus on appropriate levels for selenium in Lake Koocanusa that are protective of the known values of the water body	July 2020	Pending
Steering Committee considers recommendations, including the interests of relevant First Nations and Tribes, and recommends an appropriate level of selenium to be incorporated into the B.C. water quality objective and MT water quality criteria	July 2020	Pending
Quarterly report to BC and DEQ Executive	July 2020	Pending
ENV and DEQ conduct separate public and key stakeholder engagement activities on the proposed water quality criteria/objectives	Sept.-Nov. 2020	Pending
ENV, DEQ work with KNC, EPA and U.S. Tribes to develop communications plan	Fall 2020	Pending
Quarterly report to BC and DEQ Executive	Nov. 2020	Pending
ENV engages the KNC to discuss feedback from public and stakeholder engagement and finalize the water quality objective document	Nov. 2020	Pending
Steering Committee re-convenes to discuss feedback from engagement; final decision on selenium number	Nov. 2020	Pending
ENV and DEQ, in their role as regulatory agencies, make final decisions regarding selenium water quality criteria/objectives for Lake Koocanusa, with consideration for the Steering Committee's recommendations, and the interests and values of First Nations and Tribes related to the water body	Nov 30 2020	Pending
ENV and DEQ approve selenium water quality criteria/objectives for Lake Koocanusa	Nov 30 2020	Pending
ENV and DEQ adopt the 2021 B.C.-MT Annual Work Plan	Dec. 2020	Pending
Quarterly report to BC and DEQ Executive	Dec. 2020	Pending

#### 2019-2020 Capacity Commitments:

- ENV and DEQ commit to maintaining active co-chairs, one from each organization, on the LKMRWG's Steering Committee, the MRC, the SeTSC and any other technical sub-committee(s) or task groups that may be established by the LKMRWG in the future.
- ENV also commits to maintaining a staff person as ongoing secretariat support for the LKMRWG and its committees.
- ENV commits to maintaining the necessary staff resources to develop B.C.'s selenium water quality objective for Lake Koocanusa until they are finalized and approved in 2020.
- ENV and DEQ commit to review the ongoing role and resource commitments of the LKMRWG and its committees.